



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-05-67

PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE CUSTOMER COMMENT IN THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY RATE CASE

Jefferson City (October 13, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **Reeds Spring** and **Joplin** on **November 22, 2004**, to receive customer comment on an electric rate increase case filed by The Empire District Electric Company. The Commission will conduct these local public hearings through a video-conference link with the Commission's office in Jefferson City and Commissioners will take part in the local public hearings by video-conference.

The local public hearing schedule appears below:

Reeds Spring

November 22, 2004

12:00 p.m.*

Reeds Spring Regional TCRC

Reeds Spring High School

Highway 413 South

Joplin

November 22, 2004

5:30 p.m.*

Webster Hall

Missouri Southern State College

3950 East Newman Road

Note: *The PSC Staff will conduct a general information session starting at this time to answer any questions consumers may have. The information session will be followed by the local public hearing.

These hearings will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If a person needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearings.

Local public hearings give customers of the Company an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal currently before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

On April 30, 2004, The Empire District Electric Company filed an electric rate case with the Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual electric revenues by approximately \$38.3 million. The Company states that for the average residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$13.44 a month.

The Commission is scheduled to hold formal evidentiary hearings in this case December 6-10, 2004 and December 13-17, 2004, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City.

The Empire District Electric Company serves approximately 136,900 electric customers in the Missouri counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone and Taney.

---0---